

WITH COMMUNION

December 28, 2025 - 9:00 am

Welcome to Trinity Episcopal Church. Thank you for joining our community in worship today.

If you are interested in baptism or wish to become a member of the parish, please speak to a member of the staff. We would be delighted to have you join our family. If you are not yet an Episcopalian, please feel free to ask someone near you for assistance during the worship service. Visitors, please sign the guest book.

Many years ago, Archbishop Edward Benson, when at Truro Cathedral in England, instituted this beautiful service based on the medieval vigil service. It was modified at a later date by the Very Reverend E. M. Milner-White, at that time Dean of King's College Chapel, Cambridge, England. Since then, it has been sung annually in King's College Chapel on Christmas Eve. The lessons are traditionally read in a defined order, with the rector or bishop reading the John I lesson.

Voluntary In Dulci Jubilo George Lachenauer



The Bidding Prayer

BELOVED IN CHRIST, at this Christmastide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore, let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child. But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build, and especially in this our diocese.

And because this would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in the Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. AMEN.

The Almighty God bless us with his grace: Christ give us the joys of everlasting life: and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **AMEN.**

First Lesson

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his Seed shall bruise the serpent's head.

Cecilia Seabrook

A Reading from the Book of Genesis, Chapter 3, verses 8-15, & 17-19

And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

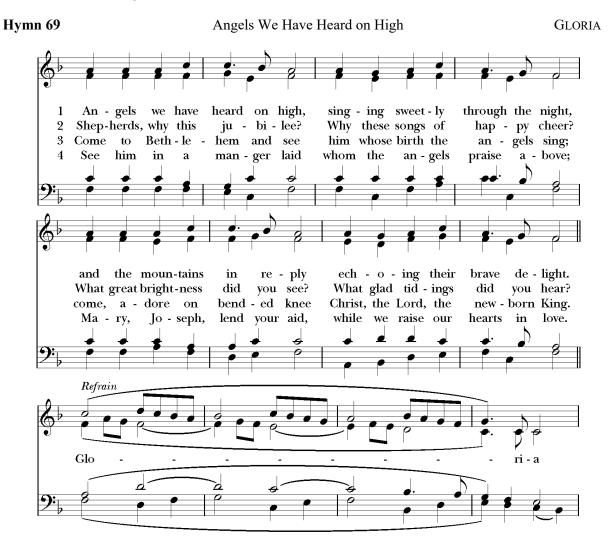


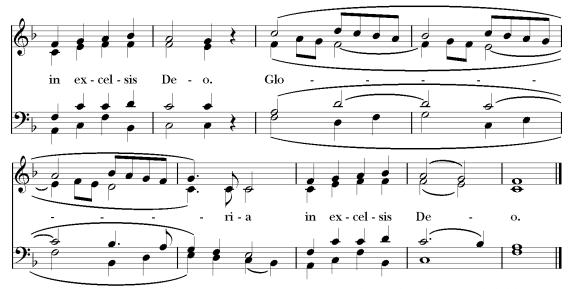


Words: Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876), alt. Music: *Carol*, Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900)

A Reading from the Book of Genesis, Chapter 22, verses 15 through 18

And the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.





Words: French carol; tr James Chadwick (1813-1882) alt. Music: Gloria, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)

Third Lesson

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.

Karen Dolan

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah, Chapter 9, verses 2, 6 & 7

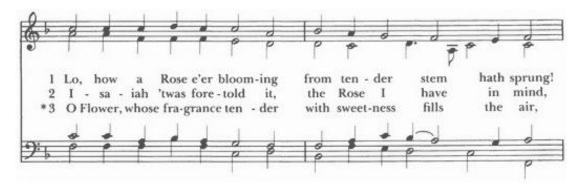
The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

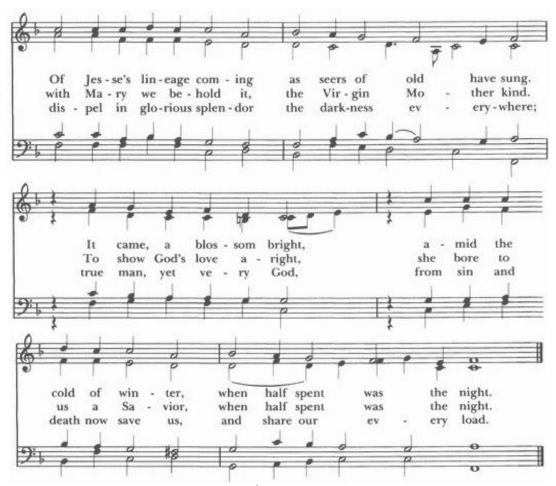
Here Ends the Reading.



Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN ROS





Words: St. 1-2, German, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934) st. 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859); tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925); ver. Hymnal1940 Music: Es ist ein Ros, melody from Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

Fourth Lesson

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

Melissa Athos

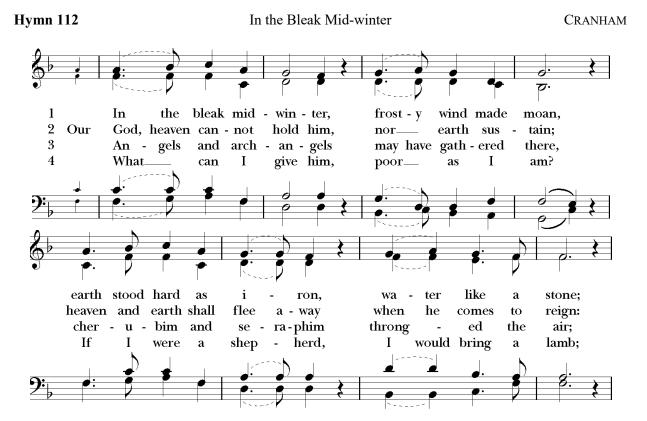
A Reading from the Book of Isaiah, Chapter 11, verses 1-4a, 6-9

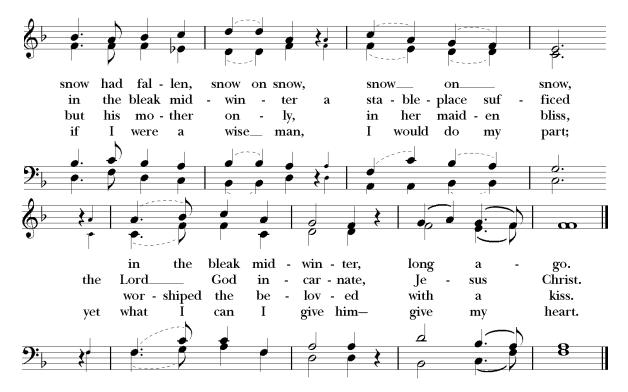
A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.



A Reading from the Book of Luke, Chapter 1, verses 26 through 35 & 38

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.





Words: Christina Rosetti (1830-1894) Music: Cranham, Gustav Theodore Holst (1874-1934)

Sixth Lesson

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

Marilou Clohessy

A Reading from the book of Luke, Chapter 2, verses 1 through 7

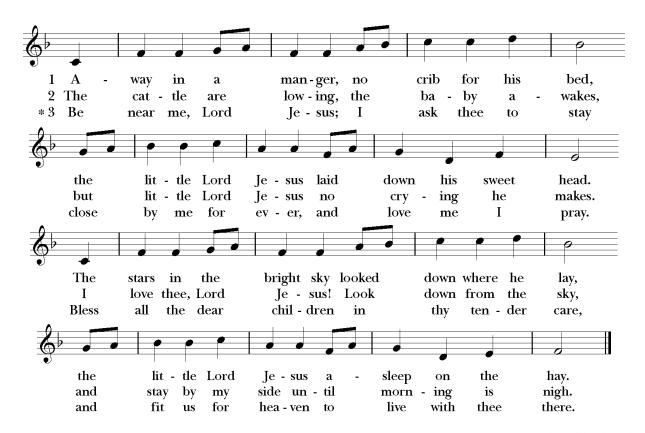
And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Here Ends the Reading.

Hymn 101

Away in a Manger

CRADLE SONG



Words: traditional Carol Music: Cradle Song, melody William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)

Seventh Lesson

The shepherds go to the manger.

Linda Barber

A Reading from the book of Luke, Chapter 2, verses 8 through 16

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.



Eighth Lesson

The wise men are led by a star to Jesus.

Michelle Donnelly

A Reading from the book of Matthew, Chapter 2 verses 1 through 12

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Here Ends the Reading.

The Song of Mary

Magnificat - Luke 1:46-55

LAND OF REST

With Mary let my soul rejoice, and praise God's holy name – his saving love from first to last, from age to age the same!

How strong his arm, how great his power! the proud he will disown; the meek and humble he exalts to share his glorious throne.

The rich our God will send away and feed the hungry poor;

the arms of love remain outstretched at mercy's open door.

So shall God's promise be fulfilled, to Israel firmly made: a child is born, a Son is given whose crown will never fade.

All glory to the Father, Son and Spirit now proclaim; with Mary let the world rejoice and praise God's holy name!

Ninth Lesson

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

Guy Stephens

A Reading from the Book of John, Chapter 1, verses 1 through 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to

bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Here Ends the Reading.

Christmas Meditation

Rev. Denzil Luckritz

Hymn 110

The Snow Lay on the Ground

VENITE ADOREMUS



THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION FROM THE RESERVED SACRAMENT

Officiant Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

The Collect of Preparation

Officiant and People

A LMIGHTY FATHER, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. AMEN.

The Holy Communion

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The people will be instructed how they will be receiving the Sacrament.

Communion Music

Lullaby

John Ness Beck

Melissa Athos, soprano

Post-Communion Prayer

After Communion, the Officiant says

Let us pray.

Officiant and People

CRACIOUS FATHER, we give you praise and thanks for this Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of your beloved Son Jesus Christ, the pledge of our redemption; and we pray that it may bring us forgiveness of our sins, strength in our weakness, and everlasting salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

The Collect and Blessing

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Officiant Let us pray.

GOD, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only son, Jesus Christ: grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. AMEN.

CHRIST, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill, and make you partakers off the divine nature; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **AMEN.**



Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt

Music: Antioch, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872

You are encouraged to remain and listen to the Closing Voluntary.

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Thank you to Kyndel Trejo, our Guest Organist today!

This week we pray for T

Our parish friends in need: June, Judy, Marilyn, Talia, Roy, Rose, Ian, Doris, Michelle, Ed, Erick, Lily, Desmond, Alton, Chris V., Patti M., Linda, Rainer, Sarah, Chris, Brian, Michael, Alison, Tim, Cheryl, George, Paul, Dick, Gale, Malcolm, Signe, Nate, Devon, Katie, John, Mary, Maggie, Marnie, Bud, Cathie, Mike, Chris, Sue, Daniel, Jared, Shannyn, Marrianne, Sandy, Cathy, Ken, Sasha, Cecilia, Anthony, Andrea, Robert, Inga, Gary, Otto, Chaney, Julian, Larry, Bobbie, Mary Ellen, Marilou, Tom M., Eileen, Chireen, David, Debbie, Bernie, Nigel, Barb G., Rita, Terry, Matthew, Amy K., Al, Rob, Robin, Christie, Lisa, Don, Virg, Kim, Kris, Connor, Anne, Bob, Phyllis, Ella, Talon, Taylor, Linda J, Ty, Roberta, Bruce, Charles, Charlene, Denise, Greg, Lynn, Gloria, Lauren, Leo, & Rodney.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God T

♦ The Sanctuary Candle is given to the Glory of God **♦**

Birthdays and Anniversaries this week

Endurance Nwose

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please let us know.

- **Flower Charts** 2026 Flower Charts are located on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Please sign up if there are special dates on which you would like to have flowers on the altar in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for a birthday, anniversary, or other important event. (Suggested donation for flowers is \$40.)
- **Sanctuary Candle** 2026 Sanctuary Candle Sign-Up is now available. Please sign up if there are special dates which you would like to have the candle lit in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for a birthday, anniversary, or other important event. Donation for the candle is \$5.
- **Neighbor Box** We are placing non-perishable food in the Box weekly. The Box is secured so that items in plastic or paper can also be donated. Parishioners can help by routinely picking up an extra item when shopping, donating money by cash or accessing the Neighbor Box donation tab on our website; www.trinityaurora.com on the online giving page. Collections baskets are at the back of the church. Our gifts will make a difference for many families.

Please welcome Kyndel Trejo as our musician this morning. Please greet her following the closing Voluntary. Greg is away visiting family for the holidays.

Crucifer/Server: Mariann Evans
Lectors: Lessons & Carols
Ushers: Dick & Gale Blogg

Malcolm Blogg

† SERVING NEXT SUNDAY **†**

Serving: Linda Barber
Lector – Lesson 1: Melissa Athos
Lector – Lesson 2: John Heath
Intercessor: John Heath

Ushers: Dick & Gale Blogg

Malcolm Blogg



Trinity Episcopal Church

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The Rt. Rev. Paula E. Clark , *Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago*The Rev. Denzil J. Luckritz, *Rector*Gregory Gyllsdorff, FAGO, ChM, *Director of Music and Organist*

Vestry

Guy Stephens, *Sr. Warden*; Marilou Clohessy, *Jr. Warden*; Thomas Herget, *Treasurer*; Cathie Patterson, *Clerk*; Karen Dolan, John Heath, Cindy Olson, Cecilia Seabrook, Patricia Tousignant, Douglas Tucker